

There is a pattern to these tragedies, and we need to pass the EAGLES Act to make sure more people are aware of how to identify these young men and get them the help they need before we have another tragedy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Madam President, on another matter, I had the privilege of spending time meeting with Iowa law enforcement during a recent break when the Congress was not in session. I met with them to hear directly what they are facing on the ground. I asked what support they needed from Congress and what challenges these people are facing.

Law enforcement faces too many problems, and we need to understand more how that affects their work and their morale. Do you know what I heard from these people? That recruiting new officers and retaining their current officers is a harder job for the chiefs to do than ever. In part, this is because young people are being told by leaders, even Members of Congress, that being in law enforcement is not an honorable profession. They are hearing that it isn't a career worth pursuing.

These Iowa officers asked me to speak with my fellow legislators to stop that kind of nonsense talk, and they happen to be right when they give us that advice, that we ought to honor the policemen today and law enforcement generally. There is no greater love than for a man to lay down his life for his community, and that sacrifice of personal safety for the well-being of others is what law enforcement embodies every day.

Recruiting and retaining good officers is also hard because of the increase in ambush attacks on law enforcement. Not only are citizens much less cooperative when dealing with law enforcement, but some are actually intentionally targeting and murdering our law enforcement personnel. Twenty twenty-one was the most dangerous year to be a law enforcement officer in the last two decades. Many officers in Iowa aren't volunteering for overtime anymore because it is too dangerous.

An ambush attack like this happened a few weeks ago in Los Angeles. Two officers responded to reports of a stabbing. When they knocked on the door, they were shot and killed by a gang member who was out on probation. He should have been already in jail, but he caught a huge break from progressive prosecutors in that city.

That wasn't the first time an officer was killed by a gang member in Los Angeles this year. This type of tragedy is getting replayed over and over again throughout the country, but we simply don't have good data on gang violence and on assaults on law enforcement, so we don't know the exact number of gang killings of policemen.

We need more data, which is why I am working on two pieces of legislation to improve data collection on both gang violence and assaults on law enforcement. The Senate Judiciary Com-

mittee will have a hearing on attacks on police to discuss these issues. I look forward to having it during that period. I hope my colleagues will stay on target and focus on the violence these brave men and women face and not use this as a forum to chastise police. We cannot wait any longer to talk about this issue and the effects it is having on our communities.

HONORING SERGEANT JOHN WILLIAMS AND DEPUTY SHERIFF AUSTIN "MELVIN" RICHARDSON

Madam President, while I am addressing this issue, I have some related and tragic news. Once again we in Iowa have a heavy heart as I recognize two Iowa officers who recently died in the line of duty.

Sergeant John Williams of the Coralville Police Department died from a medical issue while he was on patrol July 3. He was described by those who knew him as "an extraordinary officer, a friend, and a neighbor" and also a "fantastic family man and a true public servant." He was a fixture in the community as a 28-year veteran of the force, the longest serving sergeant with the Coralville Police Department—a department which said that Sergeant Williams' "knowledge, experience, and leadership will be near-impossible to replace."

Deputy Sheriff Austin "Melvin" Richardson perished on June 14 in a traffic collision. Deputy Richardson was a dedicated public servant in law enforcement for 15 years. He was an officer for Sidney, IA, and then joined the Fremont County Sheriff's Office in 2015, where he faithfully served since. Deputy Richardson truly fulfilled the meaning of a public servant. He was not only a member of law enforcement but also a volunteer firefighter for Percival and Sidney. He was described as a "staple" in the community, and he will be deeply missed.

Sergeant Williams is survived by his wife Kim; his four children: Brandon, Benjamin, Sarah, and Rebekah; as well as six grandchildren: Noah, Elijah, Elsa Adalyn, Kalliope, and Emma.

Deputy Richardson will be left behind by his wife Jennifer and three daughters, Bryxtol, Cheyenne, and Everly.

I say to all of them: Your sacrifice is honored and appreciated in your community and by your country. We thank you all.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Madam President, on to my last statement, it wasn't too long ago I came to the Senate floor to talk about the dangers of bad blue city policies, ideas like defunding and degrading the police, progressive prosecutors, and bail reform. These policies are dangerous for our citizens, our children, and our communities.

Well, a few weeks later, I am up here again with an update. Americans agreed with those statements I have made. Americans are concerned about the nationwide rise in violent crime, and they don't trust politicians who allow crime to continue. I don't blame

them, and most Americans don't blame them for being upset.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul was forced to change bail laws to allow judges to set bail for more repeat offenders and those accused of gun crimes. About 66 percent of the registered voters in New York overwhelmingly support that change that took place in New York. Why wouldn't they? Keeping dangerous criminals away from the innocent public makes our communities safer, and New Yorkers now know that and probably did always know it.

Across the country, in San Francisco of all places, another referendum on safety happened. Voters there recalled their progressive prosecutor, Chesa Boudin. Boudin refused to charge or prosecute certain violent crimes, like felony domestic violence. After only 2 years on the job, even liberal San Franciscans rejected his soft-on-crime approach, and he was fired. Why wouldn't they? Prosecuting dangerous criminals for the crimes they commit makes the community safer, and San Franciscans now know it.

Nationwide, it looks like Americans have cause for hope when it comes to violent crime. Compared to last year, many cities are a bit safer, but a few cities are getting worse, sadly to say. Why? Because they are still using the bad ideas that Americans are rejecting.

Homicides in Los Angeles are up compared to this time last year. Well, they have a progressive prosecutor, George Gascon.

Homicides in Washington, DC, are up. Well, we have police defunding to thank for that statistic. Now the city is trying to play catch-up to fix its mistake while their citizens are still in danger.

Homicides in Milwaukee are up. Well, they have bad bail reform policies. These policies led a dangerous man who should have been locked up run his car through a parade last year.

I will spend a few minutes focusing on bail reform.

We know that only a few hundred people commit most of the murders in any given cities. These criminals get arrested an average of 12 times. Most Americans know what logic tells us: Keeping people who commit crimes off the streets increases public safety. It seems pretty simple to me. If most crimes are committed by a small group of individuals who commit crimes over and over again and we can keep these repeat offenders away from innocent people, innocent Americans, then we should do just that. The best way to do this is through effective bail policies. The Federal bail system assesses the risk to society posed by the individual who is arrested. States would do well to mirror the Federal system.

Americans are paying the price for bad policies that they don't want. It is time to stop these terrible, progressive blue city ideas to make Americans safe again.

I yield the floor.